

United States Patent Application

COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below named inventor I hereby declare that: my residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name; that

I verily believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or a joint inventor (if plural inventors are named below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

"SUTURE LOCKING ASSEMBLY AND METHOD OF USE"

The specification of which

a. ☒ is attached hereto

b. ☐ was filed on _____ as application serial no. _____ and was amended on _____ (if applicable) (in the case of a PCT-filed application) described and claimed in international no. _____ filed _____ and as amended on _____ (if any), which I have reviewed and for which I solicit a United States patent.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a).¹

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119/365 of any foreign application(s) for patent of inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on the basis of which priority is claimed:

a. ☒ no such applications have been filed.

b. ☐ such applications have been filed as follows:

FOREIGN APPLICATION(S), IF ANY, CLAIMING PRIORITY UNDER 35 USC §119

COUNTRY	APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING	DATE OF ISSUE

ALL FOREIGN APPLICATIONS, IF ANY, FILED BEFORE THE PRIORITY APPLICATION(S)

COUNTRY	APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING	DATE OF ISSUE

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §1120/365 of any United States and PCT international application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §156(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

¹ § 1.56 Duty of disclosure; fraud, striking or rejection of applications.

(a) A duty of candor and good faith toward the Patent and Trademark Office rests on the inventor, on each attorney or agent who prepares or prosecutes the application and on every other individual who is substantively involved in the preparation or prosecution of the application and who is associated with the inventor, with the assignee or with anyone to whom there is an obligation to assign the application. All such individuals have a duty to disclose to the Office information they are aware of which is material to the examination of the application. Such information is material where there is substantial likelihood that a reasonable examiner would consider it important in deciding whether to allow the application to issue as a patent. The duty is commensurate with the degree of involvement in the preparation or prosecution of the application.

We hereby claim priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119(e)(1) of any U.S. provisional application listed below:

U.S. APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING	STATUS (patented, pending, abandoned)
10/404,233	April 1, 2003	Pending
10/196,527	July 16, 2002	Pending

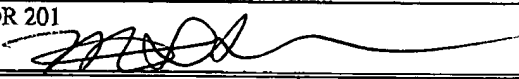

I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected herewith:

Daniel W. Latham	Reg. No. 30,401	Mark E. O'Connor	Reg. No. 40,108
David A. Warmbold	Reg. No. 30,897	John W. Albrecht	Reg. No. 40,481
Thomas G. Berry	Reg. No. 31,736	Michael C. Soldner	Reg. No. 41,455
Stephen W. Bauer	Reg. No. 32,192	Richard Yoon	Reg. No. 42,247
Michael J. Jaro	Reg. No. 34,472	James J. Bindseil	Reg. No. 42,326
Paul H. McDowall	Reg. No. 34,873	Daniel G. Chapik	Reg. No. 43,424
Kenneth J. Collier	Reg. No. 34,982	Vivian Shin	Reg. No. 43,919
Catherine C. Mares	Reg. No. 35,268	James R. Keogh	Reg. No. 44,824
Girma Wolde-Michael	Reg. No. 36,724	Daniel Greeninger	Reg. No. 48,464
Thomas F. Woods	Reg. No. 36,726	E. Lacy Belden	Reg. No. 50,751
Timothy A. Czaja	Reg. No. 39,649	Trevor Arnold	Reg. No. 51,416

Please direct all correspondence in this case to: **DICKE, BILLIG & CZAJA, PLLC**
Fifth Street Towers, Suite 2250
100 South Fifth Street
Minneapolis, MN 55402

CUSTOMER NO. **025281**

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

201	Full Name of Inventor	FIRST NAME Mark	MIDDLE INITIAL	LAST NAME Shu
	Residence & Citizenship	CITY Rancho Santa Margarita	STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY CA	CITIZENSHIP U.S.A.
	Post Office Address	POST OFFICE ADDRESS 33 Feldspar Way	CITY Rancho Santa Margarita	STATE/ZIP/COUNTRY CA/92688 / U.S.A.
SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 201 				DATE 3/2/04
202	Full Name of Inventor	FIRST NAME Chris	MIDDLE INITIAL	LAST NAME Coppin
	Residence & Citizenship	CITY Carlsbad	STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY CA	CITIZENSHIP U.S.A.
	Post Office Address	POST OFFICE ADDRESS 4377 Yosemite Street	CITY Carlsbad	STATE/ZIP/COUNTRY CA/92008 / U.S.A.
SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 202 				DATE 3/2/04

2 0 3	Full Name of Inventor	FIRST NAME Louis	MIDDLE INITIAL A.	LAST NAME Campbell
	Residence & Citizenship	CITY Austin	STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY TX	CITIZENSHIP U.S.A.
	Post Office Address	POST OFFICE ADDRESS 8122 Raintree Place	CITY Austin	STATE/ZIP/COUNTRY TX / 78759 / U.S.A.
SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 203 <i>Louis A. Campbell</i>				DATE 3-2-04
2 0 4	Full Name of Inventor	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE INITIAL	LAST NAME
	Residence & Citizenship	CITY	STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY	CITIZENSHIP
	Post Office Address	POST OFFICE ADDRESS	CITY	STATE/ZIP/COUNTRY
SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 204				DATE

___ Additional pages for fifth and subsequent inventors attached.

X This Declaration ends with this page.